



## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

June 28, 2017

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C.; New Executive Office Building, 725 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to:

OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION]. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-

8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Agricultural Marketing Service**

*TITLE:* Regulations for Voluntary Grading, Certification, and Standards  
– 7 CFR Part 54, 56, 62 and 70

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0581-0128

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1087-1091, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) (AMA) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide consumers with voluntary Federal grading and certification services that facilitate the marketing of agricultural commodities. The Quality Assessment Division (QAD) provides these services under the authority of 7 CFR Parts 54, 56, and 70. The regulations provide a voluntary program for grading and certification services based on U.S. standards, grades, and weight classes to enable orderly marketing of the corresponding agricultural products. The regulation in 7 CFR Part 62, Quality Systems Verification Programs (QSVP) is a collection of voluntary, audit-based, user-fee fund programs that allow applicants to have program documentation and program processes assessed by AMS auditor(s) and other USDA officials. This program is made available to respondents who would need to request or apply for the specific service they wish on a user fee-for-service basis.

AMS merged the Poultry Programs with the Livestock and Seed Program and it is now the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed (LPS) Program. With this renewal all PY forms will be changed to LPS.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* Using forms LPS-109 (formerly PY-32), LPS-110 (formerly PY-100), LPS-157, LPS-240P, LPS-240S, LPS-210P, LPS-210S, LPS-234 and LPS-518-1, information is collected only from respondents who elect to utilize this voluntary user fee-for-service. Only authorized representatives of the USDA use the information collected. The information is used to administer, conduct and carry out the grading services requested by the respondents. If the information were not collected, the agency would not be able to provide the voluntary grading services authorized and requested by congress, provide the types of services requested by industry, administer the program, ensure properly grade-labeled products, calculate the cost of the service or collect for the cost furnishing service.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Business or other for profit, Farms

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 1,564

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: On occasion; Semi-annually; Monthly; Annually; Other (daily)

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 10,785

### **Agricultural Marketing Service**

*TITLE:* Generic Information Collection and Clearance of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0581-0269

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* Executive Order 12862 directs Federal agencies to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. Improving Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) programs requires ongoing assessment of service delivery, by which we mean systematic review of the operation of a program compared to a set of explicit or implicit standards, as a means of contributing to the continuous improvement of the program.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* The information collection activity will garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between AMS and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous

designs that address: the target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Farms; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit Institutions and State, Local or Tribal Government

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 100,000

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: On occasion

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 50,000

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\*Billing Code 3410-02

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